

Serial No. 10/708,590
January 20, 2006
Page 2

LISTING OF CLAIMS:

1. (Currently amended) A spring element configured to transmit compression forces and tensile forces between a vehicle frame and a wheel axle that are movably arranged with respect to one another, said spring element comprises: a rubber body; a mechanical connection member that extends through the rubber body and is arranged to limit the distancing movement between the vehicle frame and the wheel axle, said connection member comprises a coupling device for coupling the connection member to at least one of the vehicle frame and the wheel axle; and the coupling device further comprises a first stub with a threaded portion protruding from the spring element, the first stub including fixing means for obtaining being designed such that a rotationally fixed, form-fit on said at least one of the vehicle frame and the wheel axle is obtained by means of the shape of the stub.
2. (Original) The spring element as recited in claim 1, wherein said transmittal of forces is effected between the wheel axle and an end of a bogie beam pivotably mounted to the vehicle frame.
3. (Currently amended) The spring element as recited in claim 1, wherein said fixing means stub further comprises a bevel configured to cooperate with a corresponding bevel (20) arranged on said at least one of the vehicle frame and the wheel axle thereby enabling said form-fit.
4. (Original) The spring element as recited in claim 1, wherein an axis of symmetry of said threaded portion substantially coincides with an axis of symmetry of said rubber body.
5. (Original) The spring element as recited in claim 4, wherein said first stub comprises a conical portion.

Serial No. 10/708,590

January 20, 2006

Page 3

6. (Original) The spring element as recited in claim 4, wherein said threaded portion further comprises a second stub with external threads and which protrudes from the spring element.

7. (Original) The spring element as recited in claim 1, wherein said threaded portions of the respective first and second stubs are configured to cooperate with a threaded element when coupled to a respective vehicle frame or wheel axle.

8. (New) A spring element, comprising:

a pair of end plates, one of which is connectable to a frame of a vehicle and the other of which is connectable to a wheel axle of said vehicle;

a rubber body disposed between the end plates;
a mechanical connection member extending through said rubber body and being coupled between said pair of end plates in such manner that said connection member limits a separation distance between said pair of end plates, said mechanical connection member including a stub extending through one of said pair of end plates, said stub being shaped to correspond to a shape of a through-passage in one of said vehicle frame or said wheel axle such that when said stub is inserted into said through-passage, relative rotation between said stub and said through-passage is prevented.

9. (New) A spring element as set forth in claim 8, wherein said stub includes an internal threaded portion for engagement with a threaded bolt.

10. (New) A spring element as set forth in claim 8, wherein said stub further includes a conical end portion.

11. (New) A spring element as set forth in claim 8, wherein said stub includes an external thread portion for engagement with a threaded nut.

Serial No. 10/708,590

January 20, 2006

Page 4

12. (New) A spring element, comprising:

a pair of end plates, one of which is connectable to a frame of a vehicle and the other of which is connectable to a wheel axle of said vehicle;

a rubber body disposed between the end plates;

a mechanical connection member extending through said rubber body and being coupled between said pair of end plates, said mechanical connection member including a first coupling device having a first U-shaped link element at one end thereof and a single stub at the other end thereof extending through one of said pair of end plates, a second coupling device having a second U-shaped link element at one thereof, said second U-shaped link element being fixedly connected to the other of said pair of end plates, and a link member coupled between said first U-shaped link element and said second U-shaped link element; wherein

said stub engages with a corresponding through-passage in one of said frame or said wheel axle.

13. (New) A spring element as set forth in claim 12, wherein said stub is shaped to correspond to a shape of a through-passage in one of said vehicle frame or said wheel axle such that when said stub is inserted into said through-passage, relative rotation between said stub and said through-passage is prevented**14. (New) A spring element as set forth in claim 12, wherein said stub includes an internal threaded portion for engagement with a threaded bolt.****15. (New) A spring element as set forth in claim 12, wherein said stub further includes a conical end portion.****16. (New) A spring element as set forth in claim 12, wherein said stub includes an external thread portion for engagement with a threaded nut.**